

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) sterilizing a liquid nutritional formula containing Vitamin D and extensively hydrolyzed protein having a degree of hydrolysis of at least about 20%;
 - (b) sterilizing a plastic container; and then
 - (c) aseptically packaging the sterilized liquid nutritional formula in the sterilized plastic container, to produce a sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula containing extensively hydrolyzed protein and Vitamin D.
2. (canceled)
3. (currently amended) The method of Claim 21, wherein the plastic ~~package~~ container is a resealable multi-dose ~~package~~ container.
4. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the extensively hydrolyzed protein has a degree of hydrolysis of from about 30% to about 80%.
5. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the extensively hydrolyzed protein has a degree of hydrolysis of from about 40% to about 60%.
6. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the liquid nutritional formula of step (a) further comprises Vitamin C.
7. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula has an average Vitamin D degradation rate reduction of from about 20% to about 40%.

8. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula has an average Vitamin D degradation rate reduction of from about 25% to about 35%.
9. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula containing extensively hydrolyzed protein and Vitamin D is an infant nutritional formula.
10. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula is not subjected to heat sterilization after packaging.
11. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula is substantially free of intact proteins.
12. (currently amended) A sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula comprising Vitamin D and extensively hydrolyzed protein having a degree of hydrolysis of at least about 20%, wherein the packaged formula is prepared by
 - (a) sterilizing a liquid nutritional formula containing Vitamin D and extensively hydrolyzed protein, said protein having a degree of hydrolysis of at least about 20%;
 - (b) sterilizing a plastic container; and then
 - (c) aseptically packaging the sterilized liquid nutritional formula in the sterilized plastic container, to produce a sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula containing extensively hydrolyzed protein and Vitamin D.
13. (canceled)
14. (currently amended) The sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula of Claim 13, wherein the plastic ~~package~~ container is a resealable multi-dose ~~package~~ container.
15. (original) The sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula of Claim 12, wherein the extensively hydrolyzed protein has a degree of hydrolysis of from about 30% to about 80%.

16. (original) The sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula of Claim 15, wherein the extensively hydrolyzed protein has a degree of hydrolysis of from about 40% to about 60%.
17. (original) The sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula of Claim 12, wherein the liquid nutritional formula of step (a) further comprises Vitamin C.
18. (original) The sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula of Claim 12, wherein the sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula has an average Vitamin D degradation rate reduction of from about 20% to about 40%.
19. (original) The sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula of Claim 12, wherein the sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula has an average Vitamin D degradation rate reduction of from about 25% to about 35%.
20. (currently amended) The sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula of Claim 12, ~~wherein,~~ wherein the formula is an infant nutritional formula.
21. (original) The sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula of Claim 12, wherein the formula is substantially free of intact proteins.
22. (currently amended) ~~The sterilized aseptically packaged~~ A composition comprising a sterilized aseptically packaged liquid nutritional formula, packaged in a plastic container, containing Vitamin D and extensively hydrolyzed protein, wherein the extensively hydrolyzed protein has a degree of hydrolysis of at least about 20%.
23. (canceled)
24. (currently amended) The aseptically packaged composition of Claim 23, wherein the plastic container is a resealable multi-dose package container.
25. (original) The aseptically packaged composition of Claim 22, wherein the extensively hydrolyzed protein has a degree of hydrolysis of from about 30% to about 80%.

26. (original) The aseptically packaged composition of Claim 22, wherein the extensively hydrolyzed protein has a degree of hydrolysis of from about 40% to about 60%.
27. (original) The aseptically packaged composition of Claim 22, wherein the liquid nutritional formula comprises Vitamin C.
28. (original) The aseptically packaged composition of Claim 22, wherein the liquid nutritional formula has an average Vitamin D degradation rate reduction of from about 20% to about 40%.
29. (original) The aseptically packaged composition of Claim 22, wherein the liquid nutritional formula has an average Vitamin D degradation rate reduction of from about 25% to about 35%.
30. (original) The aseptically packaged composition of Claim 22, wherein the liquid nutritional formula is substantially free of intact proteins.